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Executive Registry

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MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence

SUBJECT : Washington Moscow "Hot Line"
Technical Communications Arrangements

NSC REVIEW
COMPLETED
, 6/26/03

1. This memorandum is for your information and is in answer to your [REDACTED] request for information on the "Hot Line" from Washington to Moscow.
2. The arrangements concluded in Geneva specified that there would be two separate and distinct circuits between Washington and Moscow, both with the capability of transmitting and receiving messages simultaneously. The primary circuit which is land line and under water cable, extends from Washington to London, Copenhagen, Stockholm, Helsinki and to Moscow. The second circuit which is essentially by radio, extends from Washington to New York (land line) and from New York to Moscow via Tangiers. The Tangiers relay is RCA operated and was deemed necessary to provide backup communications. While the radio circuit is a backup to the land line it will also be used for technical communications coordination.
3. For transmissions from United States to Moscow, the English language will be used, and United States provided teletype equipment will be employed at both terminals. For transmission from Moscow to the United States, Russian language will be used, and Soviet provided teletype equipment will be employed at both terminals. The United States provided the cryptographic equipment (it is a type used by NATO).
4. There will be no exchange of personnel. The Soviets will operate the Moscow terminals and the United States will operate the Washington terminals. It is my understanding also that there will be translation capability at all times at both terminals. The circuit should be in operation not later than 1 September 1963.
5. I obtained the above information from Major General Sampson who is one of General Starbird's deputies. He offered to come out here and brief you personally if you desire.

[REDACTED]
Director of Communications

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